

The Pump Handle



"I had an interview with the Board of Guardians of St. James's parish, on the evening of Thursday, 7th September, and represented the above circumstances to them. In consequence of what I said, the handle of the pump was removed on the following day."

John Snow, 1855

March 2004 Topics

- National Public Health Week: April 5 - 11
- West Nile Virus – Preparing for Another Season
- New! Epidemiology Report in Electronic Format



National Public Health Week: April 5 - 11

Each year the American Public Health Association sponsors National Public Health Week. Communities across the country observe public health week by participating in promotional/public awareness events. This year's theme is "Eliminating Health Disparities." Fact sheets about health disparities focused on during National Public Health Week 2004 can be viewed at www.apha.org/NPHW/facts/. Governor Hoeven has proclaimed April 5 through 11, 2004 as Public Health Week in North Dakota, too. Read more about Public Health Week in the North Dakota Department of Health news release at www.health.state.nd.us/NDHD/press/n040401.htm.

Public Health Week posters and products are available to view and download [here](#). This is a great way to celebrate Public Health Week with your employees and the public and to bring awareness in your offices, clinics, program sites and around the community.



West Nile Virus – Preparing for Another Season

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), the Division of Microbiology and other West Nile virus (WNV) program [partners](#) are meeting April 21 to address vector control and WNV program updates for the upcoming season.

Discussions about vector control will include regulations for pesticide use and information about certification and training for pesticide application. Training and certification for North Dakota mosquito pesticide applicators is conducted by the North Dakota State University Extension Service. Questions about the program should be

directed to the Extension Service at 701.231.8050. Questions about regulations for mosquito spraying and environmental issues should be directed to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at 800.242.7535.

The NDDoH WNV program has received several questions regarding possible funding sources for vector control. The Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (MASH) Act (Public Law 108-75) authorized grants to states for coordinating mosquito control programs and assisting local governments with assessment and planning activities, including local mosquito prevention and control activities. At this time, funding has not been appropriated for these activities in the current fiscal year. Further information about the MASH act is at www.astho.org/?template=mosquito_control.html.

Information about the 2003 WNV season, updates on planning for the upcoming season and contact information can be found at www.ndwnv.com.



New! The Epidemiology Report in Electronic Format

Beginning with the January-February issue of 2004, the Epidemiology Report is no longer mailed to recipients but is posted on the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Disease Control website at www.health.state.nd.us/disease. E-mail jgoplin@state.nd.us if you would like to receive notice as the new issues of the Epidemiology Report are posted on the website.

Contributing authors of The Pump Handle include Melissa Casteel, Molly Sander, Julie Goplin, Tracy Miller, Kirby Kruger and Larry Shireley. For questions, suggestions or inquiries, or to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Julie Goplin of the Division of Disease Control at 701.238.2375 or by email at jgoplin@state.nd.us.

The pump handle picture in the title was obtained from the website www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html.



Terry Dwelle, MD, MPHTM, State Health Officer
Craig Lambrecht, MD, MPH, Chief, Medical Services Section
Larry A. Shireley, MS, MPH, Director, Division of Disease Control